

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1996

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Bureau of Indian Affairs Reorganization Act of 1996. This legislation will address the long-standing problem of an overly bureaucratic BIA which is often irresponsible to the trial constituencies it is supposed to serve.

Since its establishment in 1824, the BIA has functioned as the lead agency through which the Federal Government carries out its trust responsibilities to native Americans. However, the evidence shows that the BIA largely fails to meet these obligations. Recent reports indicate that the BIA cannot account for billions of dollars it was supposed to hold in trust for native Americans. The Interior Department Inspector General has reported that many BIA school facilities are very poorly maintained and, in some cases, native American children must attend classes in buildings that have been condemned.

Compounding these problems is the lack of tribal input into BIA priorities and operations. There have been several attempts to reorganize and reform the BIA, including, most recently, the Joint Tribal/BIA/DOI Reorganization Task Force. Despite the fact that the Joint Reorganization Task Force submitted its final recommendations in the fall of 1994, shortly thereafter the BIA proposed its own organizational reform plan. Most tribes opposed the BIA proposal, in large part because the BIA plan was not devised with tribal input and because it ignored several key recommendations of the Joint Reorganization Task Force which the tribes supported.

The legislation that I am introducing, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Reorganization Act of 1996, will address these issues by allowing tribes to assume certain functions of the BIA. The bill requires the BIA to enter into negotiations with tribes to reorganize the agency. Tribes in the jurisdiction of each BIA Area Office will be allowed to decide which functions the BIA will continue to provide, and which functions the tribes will take over. These decisions may differ from region to region, as some tribes are more willing and able than others to administer particular services. Tribes which choose to perform certain BIA functions will receive corresponding BIA funds. Before any negotiated reorganization plan for a BIA Area Office is implemented, it must be approved by a majority of tribes in that region.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, this legislation does not prescribe a certain outcome to reorganization of the BIA, but instead requires the BIA to follow a particular process which respects the sovereignty of tribal governments and our trust responsibilities to native Americans. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has already approved legislation, authored by my colleague from Arizona, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, similar to the bill I am introducing today. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort to reform the BIA.

HONORING THE PORTLAND
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Portland Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. HENNING

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador John F. "Jack" Henning, a distinguished leader who is being honored by the 110 affiliated local unions of the Central Labor Council of San Mateo County, AFL-CIO, and their 65,000 members and families.

John F. Henning has dedicated his life to fight for racial and economic equality for all working women and men in California, the Nation, and internationally. He began his successful career in the labor movement in 1938 while working with the Association of Catholic Unionists in San Francisco. He continued his fight for working people of the Nation while serving in the highest offices of government as the State Labor Federation's research director, director of the State's industrial relations department, Under Secretary of Labor in both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, and U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand.

John F. Henning has been one of the most eloquent spokespersons in our time for the rights of working people. John F. Henning's leadership has produced some of the great milestones in labor's history, from the passage of landmark proworker legislation in California, to gaining labor rights for farm workers, to

fighting for affirmative action as a regent of the University of California, to leading the successful fight to have the university divest in apartheid South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, John F. Henning is an exceptional man who has graced the stage of our Nation's labor movement. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and saluting him for his leadership, his commitment and his dedication to the workers of our Nation.

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR
MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in bringing to the attention of my colleagues excerpts from a speech recently delivered by our Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine K. Albright, at the Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, NY, on "Initiatives for World Peace." Ambassador Albright was the guest speaker in The Honorable Benjamin Gilman Lecture Series sponsored by that college. I commend Congressman GILMAN for his leadership in foreign affairs and for inviting Ambassador Albright to speak at this important function. I ask that excerpts of her speech reviewing U.S. foreign policy initiatives and the U.S. role in the United Nations be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K.
ALBRIGHT, REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED
NATIONS

Dr. Fitzpatrick, Chairman Gilman, faculty, students and friends, I am delighted to be here. As a former professor, I get a little homesick every time I visit a university campus, especially a beautiful campus such as this, especially in spring.

So I feel very much at home. I am pleased to play a part in your celebration this week of Dr. Fitzpatrick's inauguration. And I am honored to deliver a lecture named for our mutual friend, Representative Ben Gilman.

I have known Ben Gilman for many years. Throughout his career, he has been a thoughtful and principled public servant and a vigorous advocate of American leadership around the world. He has been an especially strong defender of human rights. I hope that those of you who live in this District are as proud of your representative as I am sure he is of you.

This morning, I would like to discuss America's role at the United Nations within the context of our overall foreign policy, and with an eye towards past lessons, present realities and future challenges.

Today's threats include the spread of nuclear and other advanced arms, the rise of international criminal cartels, the poisoning of our environment, the mobility of epidemic disease, the persistence of ethnic conflict and—as we have seen too often in recent weeks—the deadly and cowardly threat of terror.

Despite all this, the trend towards isolationism in America is stronger today than it has been in 70 years. As I know Representative Gilman would agree, this trend must be rejected.

We must, of course, devote primary attention to problems at home. Our position in the world depends on good schools, a healthy economy, safe neighborhoods and the unity of our people.

Today, under President Clinton, we are called upon to develop a new framework—to